

'Knesset members to visit Jordan'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Almost a third of Israel's parliament will board a plane belonging to King Hussein next week and fly to Amman as his guests, Israel Radio said Friday. The delegation of 35 legislators will be headed by Speaker Shlomo Weiss and will include heads of all the main factions in the 120-member parliament, the report said. The monarch has extended the invitation to representatives of all parties and committees in the Knesset, or Israeli parliament, as well as Speaker Weiss. They will travel Sunday morning and return in the evening after dining with King Hussein, the report said. The visit comes after several trips to Jordan by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and other top officials since the two countries ended a 46-year state of war July 1993 and signed a peace treaty on Oct. 26. Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the opposition Likud Party, visited Jordan on Dec. 6.

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Israel satisfied with Cairo summit; Palestinians sceptical

Combined agency dispatches

CAIRO — Arab leaders won a pledge from Israel at the landmark summit here to restart talks with the Palestinians but failed to make headway on a pullback of Israeli troops on the West Bank, the closure of the territories or an end to settlement work.

All three issues have dogged negotiations to extend Palestinian self-rule on the West Bank, throwing the initial timetable way off schedule.

But an Egyptian official said Friday that the aim of Thursday's landmark summit between the leaders of Israel, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was "not to resolve the outstanding issues between the Israelis and the Palestinians."

Instead it was aimed "at setting up a mechanism to solve these problems."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Friday called the meeting "a turning point" for peace which would continue "to act in the direction of peace in the Middle East."

He held five hours of talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, PLO leader

Shimon Peres and King Hussein, after which they announced the resumption of Israel-PLO talks in Cairo on Monday, and a series of high-level meetings.

But no firm date was set for a redeployment of Israeli troops on the West Bank away from Palestinian towns already delayed eight months.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Israel had profited from the Cairo summit by not backing down over disputes but PLO officials said its attitude had blocked the peace process.

"I must say that in my opinion on the issue of nuclear weapons, on the issue of

settlements, on the issue of redeployment, we profited in two ways: we didn't back away from our positions and we didn't create a confrontation," Mr. Peres told Israel Radio.

He indicated, however, the government would ease the closure of the Gaza Strip and West Bank imposed after a suicide bombing on Jan. 22 which killed 21 Israelis.

"It seems to me they want to win the elections (in Israel) and not to win the peace. The point of this summit in Cairo was the peace process having

lifted it slowly. I hope they will begin lifting it," Mr. Peres told Israel's army radio.

But the ban remained firmly in force on Friday, marking for a poor turnout for the first Friday prayers in Jerusalem in the Holy Month of Ramadan (see separate story).

Prime Minister Rabin discussed the ban with heads of state on Friday. His spokesman said it was decided to recommend to the cabinet on Sunday "to ease the situation in humanitarian instances among the residents." He did not elaborate.

Mr. Rabin, returning to Palestinian self-rule headquarters in Gaza, described the summit as "very good."

"It was a very fruitful and important meeting," he said.

Mr. Peres and Mr. Rabin have hailed the summit's no-violence statement. On Friday it was too early to assess if the Israeli public was impressed with it.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said there was no agreement on key issues such as the Palestinian demand that Israel lift the closure on the West Bank and Gaza or Israel's continued expansion of Jewish settlements in Arab

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U.S. navy boards ship with dates in Gulf

DUBAI (AFP) — The U.S. Navy has boarded a ship in Gulf waters for violating the four-year-old U.N. embargo on Iraq, a navy spokesman said Friday. He said: "We found substantial evidence that the cargo on board was loaded in Iraq when U.S. Marines boarded the Gulf Splendor last month. A search of the ship, which was sailing towards the southern Gulf under the flag of the Antilles island of Saint Vincent, turned up 'several tonnes of dates,' he added, asking to remain anonymous. In all five ships are now known to have been intercepted for violating the embargo since October when an Iraqi troop buildup on its border with Kuwait, which it invaded in August 1990, sparked a huge U.S.-led military deployment in the Gulf. The Gulf Splendor's crew of Indians put up 'no resistance' during the search and the ship was handed over to authorities in the United Arab Emirates.



FRIDAY PRAYERS: His Majesty King Hussein attends the first Friday prayer of Ramadan at the Royal Guards Mosque. The Friday sermon was delivered by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Ahbabi. Attending the prayer were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Their Royal Highnesses Princes Abdullah, Faisal and Ali, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and other senior civil and military officials. Following the prayer, the King, accompanied by Prince Hasan and Princes Abdullah, Faisal, Ali and Sharif Zeid visited the tombs of King Abdullah, King Talal and Queen Mother Zein Al Sharaf.

Cairo summit backs development bank

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The final

communiqué issued by the Cairo summit of the leaders of Jordan, Egypt, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Thursday called for enhanced regional economic cooperation and joint projects and supported the proposal to set up a Middle East regional development bank.

The communiqué also called for preparations for a conference to be held in Amman in October as a follow-up to the economic summit on the Middle East and North Africa held in Casablanca late last year.

Mr. Rabin praised a statement drafted during the summit condemning terrorism, but added that meeting as a "peace bloc" was more important than formal declarations.

Security sources said they would recommend at a top-level meeting in Tel Aviv that Mr. Rabin ease the closure to allow Palestinians to pray at Al Aqsa mosque almost a year ago, on Feb. 25, 1994.

This year Jews have been banned from praying inside the complex on Fridays during Ramadan for security reasons.

Police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Rubin said 60,000 Muslims attended Friday's service at Al Aqsa, but reporters on the scene only saw about 20,000.

"Israel continues its oppressive, inhuman measures without considering this Holy Month," Sheik Sabri said in his sermon. "Do they think these oppressive measures against the people of Palestine... will make this

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tries and international organisations, it was agreed to set up a task force which would assess the modalities of setting up the bank.

The Amman conference, which was deferred until October from an earlier schedule in May/June, is expected to announce the formal launching of the development bank with a capital expected to be around \$5 billion, depending on European Union, Japanese and Arab Gulf contribution.

The communiqué also called for "giving special attention to strengthening the educational capabilities of the region, with special emphasis on science, technology and computerisation," the communiqué said. "In this regard, the parties will seriously consider and explore with the European Union the convening of a special education conference devoted to this aim."

In Switzerland last week, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and his Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa met with several international companies to discuss proposals for the Washington talks.

Mubarak agreed "to enhance economic cooperation and encourage joint projects, and attract the international private sector, particularly in preparation for the Amman summit (Oct. 30, 1995)."

"As part of this process, the parties are committed to the establishment of a regional development bank," it said.

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"give special attention to strengthening the educational capabilities of the region, with special emphasis on science, technology and computerisation," the communiqué said. "In this regard, the parties will seriously consider and explore with the European Union the convening of a special education conference devoted to this aim."

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Mr. Musa said Friday that he and his counterparts from Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) would meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Washington on Feb. 12 to discuss the ideas discussed in the Cairo communiqué. The summit communiqué said the four leaders had agreed on the Washington talks.

The council was founded in 1949 to defend human rights and parliamentary democracy. It is the oldest of the post-war organisations promoting European unity, and best known for its 1950 human rights convention.

Its core membership of Western European democracies has expanded to include new Eastern European democracies — Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Council spokeswoman Henriette Girard said assembly members would demand a ceasefire with Chechenya.

Voting late Thursday to suspend talks, the council's parliamentary assembly also condemned "the indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force by the Russian military."

Abdul Meguid asks Ghali to probe new Pan Am claims

DUBAI (R) — The Arab League asked the United Nations on Friday to give Libya a chance by investigating alleged new evidence about the bombing of a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988.

The request was made by Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, a former Egyptian cabinet colleague, in a rare live debate on United Arab Emirates television.

"New developments have come in the past 10 days with the unveiling of evidence removing suspicion from Libya," he said from Cairo as Dr. Ghali listened from New York.

"So it is natural that this new evidence is given... a chance for the possibility of reviewing the fashion by which the Security Council deals with Libya and its imposition of an embargo and sanctions on it."

Mr. Abdul Meguid was apparently referring to a report in the Daily Record, a Scottish newspaper, saying an Iranian diplomat paid \$10 million for the bombing of the Pan Am airliner and a second report that Palestinian guerrillas could have been involved.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd told the British Parliament on Wednesday: "No credible evidence has been found to substantiate



Esmael Abdul Meguid
ate either theory."

a room" at the International Court of Justice for the two Libyans to stand trial before a Scottish tribunal.

Washington and London have already rejected an offer for the Libyans to be tried in Scotland or under Scottish law.

Dr. Ghali responded by suggesting that Libya should present a new document to the Security Council containing Dr. Abdul Meguid's argument. He said the Security Council might take a new stand if it was convinced by such a document.

"There must be action," he added. "Media reports are one thing and an official document by (Libya) is something else."

The U.N. Security Council imposed an air and arms embargo on Libya in 1992 for refusing to surrender two alleged Libyan intelligence agents wanted in Britain and the United States in connection with the bombing, which killed 270 people.

Egyptian Parliamentary Speaker Fathi Sourou said the United Nations had failed in its mission and demanded a change in rules governing permanent membership of the Security Council.

Dr. Abdul Meguid, a former Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister who like Dr. Ghali studied international law, questioned the legality of their demand.

"How can Britain and America insist on handing the two suspects to them when they do not have extradition treaties with Libya," he asked.

The 22-member Arab League has backed Libya in the dispute and Dr. Abdul Meguid asked the U.N. secretary-general to "borrow

Europe, Turkey discuss relations

LONDON (R) — The foreign ministers of Turkey and four Western European nations on Thursday reaffirmed their commitment to a strong relationship.

The British Foreign Office said Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd met with the foreign ministers of Turkey, France, Germany and Italy to continue an "intensive but informal dialogue between Turkey and Western European states with a special interest in the region."

They also discussed the civil rights situation in Turkey, as well as the need for a negotiated settlement in Cyprus, which has been divided since Turkey invaded in 1974 and occupied the northern sector.

Allegations of abuses by Turkish police are longstanding. Human rights groups claim the Turkish military is escalating a brutal campaign to wipe out villages consid-

Turkish Foreign Minister

Murat Karayalcin "emphasised the Turkish commitment to democratic values and outlined the measures the Turkish government is undertaking to reform the constitution and associated legal instruments, and to enforce the civil rights which they provide," a Foreign Office spokesman said anonymously, in keeping with British practice.

The Financial Times quoted Mr. Hurd as saying the discussion on human rights was "the most substantial" he had ever had with Turkey on the issue.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and Italy's Susanna Agnelli attended the talks.

"Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to a strong and developing relationship between European and Turkey," the Foreign Office spokesman said.

Among other findings, it said only 24.8 per cent of Lebanese-born residents had educational or vocational qualifications compared to 41.2 per cent for the total of overseas-born residents and 38.8 per cent for the general population.

The report, one of a series of ethnic profiles by the bureau, was launched Friday by Immigration Minister Nick Bolukas who said that while the Lebanese were a diverse community, they had another common feature.

"From the time when Lebanese people first started coming to Australia, they have warmly embraced this country as their home," Bolukas said.

Sudan steps up 'Popular Defence'

GEDAREF, Sudan (AFP) — One state government in east Sudan has already set up 400 military training camps in compliance with a call by President Omar Al Bashir for a million men capable of bearing arms by the end of the year.

The governor of Gedaref state, Sherif Ahmad Omar Badr, said authorities there have trained more than 60,000 Popular Defence Force (PDF) recruits in compliance with General Bashir's call for mobilisation.

His government plans to train more than 50,000 others during the holy month of Ramadan and will continue to recruit other batches "until all the people of Gedaref are trained," Mr. Badr told AFP.

The PDF's coordinator, Ahmad Osman Al Nour, said that in all 70,000 recruits had been trained, and it appeared that the target of a million could be reached.

Hundreds of thousands of

people from different professional groups and backgrounds have undergone military training in various parts of Sudan with the PDF.

The PDF is one of the institutions set up by Gen. Bashir after his junta ousted an elected civilian government in June 1989, scrapped political parties and trade unions and established an Islamic regime.

PDF recruits are sent to an advance course in fighting techniques before being dispatched to zones in south Sudan to fight alongside government soldiers against the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Mr. Badr said that the latest batch of recruits was named after an engineer killed on the front last month.

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DETAINED: A young Palestinian boy is being detained by Israeli border police. He is holding up his identification card for inspection. Other people are visible in the background, including some who appear to be stone-throwing.

Joblessness high among Lebanese in Australia

SYDNEY (AFP) — Relatively poor education and a lack of English has contributed to higher than average unemployment among Lebanese migrants accepted by Australia, according to an official report released here Friday.

The Australian government's Bureau of Immigration, Multicultural and Population Research said employment among Lebanese-born immigrants reached 33.7 per cent in 1991 — almost three times the rate for all Australians, which peaked at 11.6 per cent that year.

The bureau report, based on the 1991 census, also showed a much lower income for Australia's 69,000 Lebanese-born residents — 11,300 Australian dollars (\$8,600) compared to 14,200 for the total Australian population. They mainly did unskilled work.

Among other findings, it said only 24.8 per cent of Lebanese-born residents had educational or vocational qualifications compared to 41.2 per cent for the total of overseas-born residents and 38.8 per cent for the general population.

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Urgently needed but limited structural repairs were carried out in 1960 and on the 35-metre dome in 1979.

But wrangling between the Greek Orthodox, Armenian Gregorian and Roman Catholic churches blocked any accord to complete repairs to extensive damage from fires in 1908 and 1949 as well as an earthquake in 1927.

The soot-blackened dome will now be decorated with 12 rays of gold, each in triple, representing the apostles and the trinity, a pearly white background of clouds.

"It was a long way to reach the agreement," admitted Bishop Timothy.

"Every stage needs the common agreement," he explained.

The bishop said the work was expected to take about two years after which the scaffolding will be removed for the first time since 1935.

"We are eager to see the completion of the work in order to restore the beauty and tranquility of this unique Christian monument in the world."

However, Metropolitan Daniel, who runs the Holy Sepulchre for the Greek patriarchate, regretted that his proposal for a Byzantine mosaic was not accepted.

Other soldiers were protecting

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Mr. Nour said the PDF helped safeguard highways with round-the-clock patrols to fight off armed bandits. Some PDF elements have also been given special training in anti-smuggling operations, he said.

He also described as relations with Ethiopia as "excellent" following a meeting of a joint committee of his state government and representatives of the neighbouring Ethiopian region.

The committee resolved some differences over an undemarcated border.

PDF coordinator Nour told AFP that one of his achievements was maintenance of security along the Ethiopian border. The PDF set up an expansive farm near the frontier town of Fagasha, manned with its troops, under a "Green Security" scheme. Other soldiers were protecting

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Diplomats agree on terms for Peru-Ecuador ceasefire

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Negotiators for Peru and Ecuador agreed Friday morning on ceasefire terms to halt nine days of fighting in a disputed section of jungle on their border, Brazil's acting foreign minister said.

"We reached an accord that was approved by everyone," an elated Sebastiao Do rego Barros, Brazil's acting foreign minister, said when the session ended.

Mr. Barros did not give details of the agreement but said it had been sent to the governments of Ecuador and Peru for study.

Mr. Barros said the delegates would meet again Friday afternoon "when we hope to receive final approval of the accord and we can put an end to this senseless war."

Peru and Ecuador each accused the other of starting the fighting, which broke out in earnest on Jan. 26, by crossing into the disputed territory, a 50-mile (80-kilometre) stretch of jungle-covered Cordillera Del Condor Mountains 530 miles (850 kilometres) north of Lima. The area contains gold, uranium and possibly oil deposits.

Each side has given conflicting accounts of casualties, but at least dozens of soldiers have been killed in the fighting in the disputed area.

The ceasefire agreement came at the end of a third straight all-night session at Itamaraty Palace, the Foreign Ministry's office in Rio De Janeiro.

Delegates from Brazil, Chile, Argentina and the United States — the guarantor nations of the 1942 treaty that set the Peru-Ecuador border after a war — took part in the talks.

"For the first time since the beginning we worked together the whole night, with all six representatives at the table," Mr. Barros said.

Although President Sixto Duran-Ballen of Ecuador



This photo released by the Ecuadorian army shows a group of Ecuadorian troops positioned outside the Amazonian town of Soldado Monge near the Peruvian border. Ecuadorian and Peruvian forces have been fighting at the frontier between their two countries since Jan. 26 over a border dispute (AFP photo)

proposed a ceasefire Tuesday and President Alberto Fujimori of Peru made a counter-offer Wednesday, diplomats couldn't agree on the procedure.

Julio Freyre, an Argentine diplomat, said Thursday that Ecuador had agreed to Peru's demands of demilitarized zones along the border with independent observers.

But he said the Peruvians were the greater sticklers for details, such as how far and how fast troops must pull back from the combat zone. The two remained in separate rooms at the palace, while delegates of the other countries acted as go-betweens. They finally agreed to sit at the same table Thursday.

Meanwhile, Peruvian forces advanced on Ecuadorian positions and claimed to have overrun an army outpost, even as the two countries appeared to reach a preliminary ceasefire accord in their jungle border war.

Peruvian military commander Gen. Nicolas Hermoza Thursday said 49 soldiers — 43 of the Ecuadorians — had been killed in the last two days of skirmishes.

The Ecuadorian military confirmed the fighting, saying Peruvian troops launched morning attacks against various border posts. But it said only one Ecuadorian was wounded and one was missing.

The conflicting reports were indicative of the week-long war, in which each country has accused the other of

Southern Africans urge aid donors: 'Don't cut us adrift'

LILONGWE (AFP) — "Coordination" Conference, the re-named SADC was originally aimed at harmonizing development plans and reducing the region's economic dependence on South Africa.

Speaking for SADC's main financial backers in the European Union, French prime ministerial aide Roger Romani pledged to continue helping the region in the recent trend towards peace, stability and economic development.

With the end of apartheid, elections in Mozambique and a tentative peace process in Angola, the situation in southern Africa is looking more promising than in years.

Mr. Romani said the EU had been impressed with the democratic changes in the region.

"The European Union is

U.N. seeks 7,000 peacekeepers for Angola

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The secretary-general has proposed sending some 7,000 peacekeepers to back up a peace accord for Angola, saying a November agreement to end two decades of civil war has generally held.

Escorting humanitarian aid convoys in the devastated southwest African country would be part of the force's mission, U.N. chief Boutros Ghali said in a report to the Security Council.

The Council is expected to approve the force next week. U.N. member countries have already pledged the needed troops.

The plan calls for six batta-

lions of roughly 1,000 troops each to be sent to Angola within three months, beefing up a U.N. presence of some 300 military observers.

The U.N. force will try to ensure that the peace accord's terms are carried out, including the disarming of UNITA rebels who have fought the government for control of the country since independence from Portugal in 1975.

More than 500,000 Angolans died as a result of the civil war. UNITA — an acronym for the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola — and the government together

bare more than 200,000 troops under arms.

The peacekeepers would also help remove some 10 million land mines and unexploded shells littering Angola.

Dr. Ghali said the Nov. 22 ceasefire "has been generally holding."

But in his report he warned that peacekeepers would be pulled out quickly if the country slides back toward civil war.

"For the international community, there are obvious risks involved in investing a new peacekeeping operation in Angola," he said.

Kidnappers kill Russian deputy

MOSCOW (AFP) — A Russian legislator with links to this country's freewheeling business community was found slain with a bullet wound in the neck Thursday after being kidnapped from a bar, the news agency ITAR-TASS reported.

Sergei Skoroskin, 34, an independent member of the State Duma, had been abducted Wednesday night by four men armed with submachine guns who were posing as policemen when they entered the bar at Zaraisk, near Moscow.

Mr. Skoroskin, a businessman who won election to the Duma in December 1993, made headlines last year when he shot and killed a man who had allegedly shot at him, as well as a woman who got in the line of fire.

Proceedings against him were halted on grounds that he had acted in self-defence.

In case the three jets have to be shut down, he said, Discovery would get no closer than 300 metres (1,000 feet) from the orbiting space station, rather than 10 metres (30 feet) as planned.

The rendezvous at some 392 kilometres (240 miles) above Earth is the cornerstone of Discovery's eight-day mission.

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Milestone on road to full peace

SUMMIT that brought together His Majesty King Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Cairo over the weekend was a milestone in the process of peace building in the Middle East.

The messages that emerged from the unprecedented meeting are highly significant for the peace negotiations and the vested interests of all four parties, that have high stakes in seeing the process leading to comprehensive peace. We agree with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' characterisation of the summit as a "peace coalition," but only if it meant that Israel, like Jordan, Egypt and the Palestine National Authority, is determined to work for the attainment of just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region.

But the gathering was not, and cannot be seen, as a exclusive regional alliance opposed to other key players in the region and the peace process, for whose success Israel holds all the major cards. The significance of the summit stems not only from its convening. Its importance also lies in the final communiqué which the four leaders reasserted their determination to work for the attainment of comprehensive peace in the area, implement agreements already reached and stressed the need to solve the problems facing the Palestinian track, among other significant announcements.

The three Arab leaders who attended the meeting have always recognised the urgency of realising these aims as well as making the Middle East an area free of weapons of mass destruction, releasing the potential of the region from the constraints of conflict and striving to make the Middle East a better place in which to live. It is Israel which has been the obstacle to achieving these goals. And it is Israel which has to make the extra effort to translate the final communiqué of the Cairo summit into a reality that would only remove the shadow of war and suffering from the peoples of the area.

The summit should have given the Israelis a taste of a constructive state of affairs in which the Middle East can live in. Even before Israel has fulfilled all its obligations under the various treaties it has signed with the countries involved in the Cairo summit, the leaders were willing to receive Mr. Rabin and sit down with him in an effort to spread peace all over the region. This scatters the long held Israeli myth that Arab enmity was ideological. If any thing, the world should have the Israelis realise that their policies over the last four decades have been the cause of conflict between Arabs and Jews. But if the Israeli attitude towards reconciliation on the bases of achieving justice for all, Arabs would be more than willing to appreciate.

Israel should start acting to prove that it seriously and genuinely wants peace; a peace that is predicated on justice and fairness, not on a balance of power in its favour. An urgent and immediate action should be exercised on the Palestinian track. The Jewish state has left much to be desired in terms of its commitment to the Cairo and Oslo deals. The Cairo summit and the positive messages it sent should produce a complete reassessment of Israel's policy on the deals it signed with the Palestinians. That should lead to implementing them fully, and without delay.

But that on its own will not bring the comprehensive peace that the region needs. The Syrian track must witness faster movement. And so must the Lebanese one lead to a just solution on the basis of U.N. resolutions and international legitimacy. When that happens, summits of the leaders of the area could not be the event that the media would receive with such fanfare simply because it is the exception. It will be the normal state of affairs in a region that requires that it must work together if it is to build a better future.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE SUMMIT meeting by the heads of state of Jordan, Egypt, Palestine and Israel in Cairo is a significant development as the four countries are continuing their efforts to ensure peace and stability in the region, said Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily. Israel's participation in the summit means that the Jewish state has become part of the Middle East community, but the Israeli government still has to take steps to enhance its status as a member of this community by meeting the requirements of peace in full, he said. What is expected from the Israeli government at this juncture, said the writer, is implementation of its deal with the Palestinians in the one hand and withdrawal from the Syrian and Lebanese territories on the other. In Palestine, the Israelis can halt their Jewish settlement programmes on Arab lands and defuse the tension with the Palestinian National Authority, and paving the ground for the other steps required for the implementation of the Oslo and Cairo agreements, continued the writer. He said Jordan and Egypt, which have signed peace treaties with Israel, are in a good position to urge the Israeli leaders to comply with the requirements of peace on all tracks so that the aspired comprehensive peace can be attained.

COMMENTING ON a decision by the Ministry of Supply and Amman Municipality to set up open souqs (markets) in the suburbs of the capital during the month of Ramadan, a writer in Sawi Al Shaab daily said that the move was bound to bring down the prices of vegetables and fruits for the consumers' benefit. Ahmed Dabbas said that Amman residents will be happy to turn to these markets where they can buy their needs at lower prices since the vendors pay no rent or income tax and no intermediaries stand in the way between the farmers and consumers.

Jordanian Perspective

Dr. Musa Kellani

Summit will help advance quest for peace

IT IS TOO early to determine the impact and results of the unprecedented summit that three Arab leaders held with the Israeli prime minister in Cairo on Thursday. But one thing is clear; any such meeting at this crucial stage in Middle East peacemaking has to be positive since it would help advance the quest for an equitable and comprehensive solution to the fundamental problems in the region.

But what we in Jordan are more concerned with is whether Israel sought a superficial image of close interaction with the Arabs to serve the ruling Labour Party or was sincerely interested in seeing the peace process move forward in a manner positive to the Arab side. From the Israeli track record so far in the peace process, it is clear that Israel will not be ready to make any substantial concession to the Arabs unless it gets its own way in return.

We can only hope that Israel had come to the Cairo summit mentally prepared to drop its hardline stance and help advance the quest for overall peace in the region by offering to meet the legitimate Arab demands for the return of territory, including Syria's Golan Heights and Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon. But if the Cairo exercise was a political gimmick, then we are actually back square minus one.

The overriding factor in the Cairo summit was indeed the Arab demand for concrete Israeli gestures to advance the peace process based on equitable arrangements for coexistence in the Middle East. But such gestures, no matter how one looks at it, represent the very roots of the problem, particularly among the Israeli electorate. That was the basic contradiction in any Arab-Israeli effort to push the search for equitable and comprehensive peace. Indeed it is a double-edged sword since the very way to achieve the goal of peace in the region is through Israeli moves to meet the Arabs' legitimate demands. But meeting the Arab demands also means a further erosion of the standing of the Israeli Labour Party among the Israeli voters.

Given that the issue of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, the status of Jerusalem and the nuclear issue

were indeed at the top of the Cairo agenda, the fact remained that the Israeli side would have been hard put to make any substantial moves if its intention was to score internal points.

So the lesson to be learnt from the Cairo summit depends on the concrete moves that the four leaders agreed upon since those moves would actually indicate the seriousness of Israel to lift the logjam in the peace negotiations.

No doubt, the deadlock in the Israeli-Palestinian track was the focus of the discussions among His Majesty King Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. However, one fails to see how Israel could hope to produce a major breakthrough to advance the Palestinian track without meeting the basic demand of the Palestinians for its withdrawal from the occupied West Bank and a stop to all Israeli meddling internal Palestinian affairs.

At the same time, one of the key objectives of Mr. Rabin was to secure some political capital out of the summit to prop up his sagging popularity among his constituency. As such, it was inevitable that he had come prepared to make some token gestures to the Palestinians in return for Mr. Arafat adopting an "iron fist" policy against Palestinian hardliners if only to appease the Israeli electorate.

It was clear that Egypt wanted the Cairo summit to produce a dramatic change in the apparent image of confrontation with Israel over the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, particularly that it is coming under intense American pressure to drop its demand for an Israeli endorsement of the treaty. All said and done, whether Egypt signed the NPT or not is a key issue here. The issue was Israel's nuclear arsenal — the invisible weapon with which it is threatening the region. Perhaps, the way out of the deadlock was, as reported in the Israeli media, allowing a team of Egyptian nuclear experts to visit some of Israel's nuclear facilities, since such a move would come as a face-saving formula for Mr. Mubarak, particularly in time for his upcoming meeting with President Bill Clinton in Washington.

As far as Jordan is concerned, the Kingdom stands ready to contribute positively to any effort to advance the effort for a comprehensive, just and durable peace settlement between Israel and the Arabs. Jordan, which has regained its water and territorial rights under the peace treaty it signed with Israel in October, has no political objectives from its offer to positively support any such effort except that overall Arab-Israeli peace bodes well for everyone and for the entire region.

It was suggested that Jordan wanted to "legitimise" its peace treaty with Israel with the Cairo summit. That is a very short-sighted view on the part of anyone who suggested it. Jordan does not need to legitimise anything since there is no question of the legitimacy of the peace treaty, a document which has been concluded between two sovereign governments and which does not overlap on anyone's rights. It only takes a cursory look at Jordan's track record in the peace process and the decades that preceded it to ascertain that the Kingdom was always committed to peace and always worked for it. Now, whether some Arab parties liked the treaty or not is a different question altogether, but that does not concern Jordan, whose experience in dealing with the Arabs is full of bitterness over being let down at the very point of breakthrough over the years. We will not let anyone lecture us on that.

It has been made abundantly clear by His Majesty that the course adopted by Jordan to make peace with Israel based on the legitimate and sovereign rights of the Kingdom had nothing to do with any other party. At the same Jordan is also keen in seeing peace prevailing throughout the region, whether in the Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese tracks or in the context of the wider Arab World and the Jewish state. That was the reason King Hussein accepted the invitation to go to Cairo and attend the summit. For us in Jordan anyone who wants to interpret it anymore than that has ulterior motives that do not bode well for the Kingdom.

Honest image saves Venezuela's Caldera from crisis

By Gary Regenstrief

Reuter

CARACAS — The economy is slumping, inflation is soaring and poverty is on the rise, but Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera enjoys a remarkable measure of popularity after one year in office.

His anniversary Thursday caps a year of relative political calm following two years of tumult marked by two coups, two military attempts and the impeachment of his predecessor, Carlos Andres Perez.

Economic turmoil, however, has dogged Mr. Caldera since his inauguration and analysts warn that public support will soon evaporate unless he can show he is pulling Venezuela out of deep recession and a grave banking crisis.

The elder statesman continues to win over 50 per cent approval ratings in opinion polls largely for his image of honesty in a nation whose two previous elected presidents face trial for corruption.

"He is credible, honourable, respectable and honest. This is a scandalous novelty in the presidency of the republic," historian Arturo Uslar Pietri told local television this week.

It is rather strange to hear the Israeli leaders' plan to maintain a blockade on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip at a time when they claim that they are seeking peace, said Taher Awdan in Al Dustour. The Israeli president has said that negotiations with the Palestinians should stop at a time when his government has issued orders for beefing up the Jewish settlements. These and other measures are not conducive to peace with the Palestinians and the Arab World at large but are bound to further escalate the cycle of violence, added the writer.

As Jordanians expressed joy over the return of their land that has been under Israeli occupation, one can only express hope that Jordanian farmers will be able to cultivate the fertile areas of Wadi Araba and the Jordan Valley which are still held by the Israelis.

Commenting on the sharp rise in prices of various consumer commodities during the month of Ramadan, a columnist in Al Ra'i said while the limited-income groups try hard to cope with the rising prices, one can see that the wealthy tend to resort to extravagant spending on banquets during the holy month. It is strange to see that the month that has been dedicated for prayers and repentance transformed into a consumption fever causing the greedy merchants to practise manipulation and mass fortunes at the expense of the misery of the poor, said Nazib.

Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that the closure of the occupied Arab lands in Palestine following the suicide bombing near Tel Aviv would not stop the resistance activities against Israel. Furthermore, said the writer, the building of settlements under the pre-

constitutional freedoms, including the guarantee against search and arrest without a warrant, all in a bid to prevent price gouging and round up suspected criminals.

Seeking to protect the public's deposits, his government spent about \$6 billion over half the 1994 budget to bail out and eventually take over 16 sinking banks.

Leading economist Pedro Palma, a vice president with Booz Allen and Hamilton Inc, said the banking crisis has limited the government's ability to manoeuvre on other economic fronts, but he criticised the controls as a regressive step.

"He is giving a palliative to a patient who needs surgery," Palma said in an interview. "The controls were the most comfortable way to avoid social problems. The more time that passes the worse the consequences."

The government, he said, should take some tough measures now, such as speeding up privatisations and eliminating subsidies that are eating up funds that could be used in other sectors.

Mr. Caldera is best at issuing broad statements of intent, such as vague plans to reduce inflation and promote growth, but gets lower grades for saying how he will accomplish it or on taking political decisions that could spark public discontent.

"The crisis requires audacity and wisdom and the ability to jump into the void, wisdom to calculate it," the daily *El Nacional* newspaper said in an editorial comment. "There is too much caution and not enough audacity."

Mr. Caldera, who holds a minority in Congress, has been able to govern thanks in large part to an opposition that has not been too obstructionist.

Jesús Sanjoa Hernandez, a political scientist and newspaper columnist, suggested that the gloves will come off ahead of December elections for mayors and governors when the opposition will seek to knock points off Mr. Caldera's popularity.

"They will look for the government's weak flank before December," he said.

The opposition has already begun to stir.

"The economic and social problems have worsened," Pedro Tabata Gómez, deputy parliamentary head for the opposition Democratic Action Party, told Reuters. "Calderá has counted on the support of all parties. They have given him a full year to draft a consistent and viable political plan that he has not achieved."

M. KAHIL



Jordanians celebrate return of occupied land; Israel must implement Oslo deal

By Elia Nasrallah

THE ARAB-Israeli summit in Cairo, the situation in the occupied Arab lands as well as pan-Arab and domestic affairs were given prominence in the local Arabic press in the past week.

The United States has a real interest in the success of the Arab-Israeli summit because it is the sponsor of the peace process, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

Also, being the strategic ally of Israel, it is coming to its help at a time when the Arabs are exercising pressure on the Jewish state to implement U.N. resolutions and other peace requirements, said the paper.

It is hoped that Washington would not suffice itself with issuing statements of support for Arab-Israeli meetings but would rather take steps to ensure the establishment of peace in dead rather than words, continued the writer.

While the Arabs consider the Cairo meeting as a way to persuade the Israelis to comply with the requirements of peace, Israeli leaders consider the summit as an Israeli-Arab strategic alliance against the opponents of the peace treaties, said the paper, which expressed hope that Washington would take moves in the wake of the summit to ensure Israel's withdrawal from Arab land and a halt of Jewish settlement programmes.

Al Dustour said that Jordan welcomed the Cairo summit as a means of exercising pressure on the Jewish state to implement the Oslo and Cairo agreements and to respond favourably to the requirements of peace on the other Arab-Israeli tracks. The paper said that Jordan's participation in the Cairo summit was a reaffirmation

of the Kingdom's pivotal role in the peace-making process, which has been stalled due to Israel's obstinacy. Despite the fact that Jordan has regained its sovereignty over its land and water resources, the Kingdom is keen on seeing peace prevailing throughout the whole region and on seeing Arab lands restored to their legitimate owners, said the writer.

Arab demand over the past three decades in exchange for peace with the Jewish state would not help the cause of peace. Israel should remember, said the writer, that it was largely due to suicide bombing attacks against the American and Israeli forces in Lebanon that these forces withdrew from Lebanese territory.

It is rather strange to hear the Israeli leaders' plan to maintain a blockade on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip at a time when they claim that they are seeking peace, said Taher Awdan in Al Dustour. The Israeli president has said that negotiations with the Palestinians should stop at a time when his government has issued orders for beefing up the Jewish settlements. These and other measures are not conducive to peace with the Palestinians and the Arab World at large but are bound to further escalate the cycle of violence, added the writer.

Commenting on the sharp rise in prices of various consumer commodities during the month of Ramadan, a columnist in Al Ra'i said while the limited-income groups try hard to cope with the rising prices, one can see that the wealthy tend to resort to extravagant spending on banquets during the holy month. It is strange to see that the month that has been dedicated for prayers and repentance transformed into a consumption fever causing the greedy merchants to practise manipulation and mass fortunes at the expense of the misery of the poor, said Nazib.

Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that the closure of the occupied Arab lands in Palestine following the suicide bombing near Tel Aviv would not stop the resistance activities against Israel. Furthermore, said the writer, the building of settlements under the pre-

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Jordan and the Palestinians are about to conclude a peace treaty with Syria and Lebanon, noted the writer. He said the allegations that Israel is facing nuclear dangers from its neighbours are baseless and are being used as a tool to justify Israel's nuclear programme with which it hopes to secure its domination of the Arab region's future. The writer said that the Arabs should not bury their heads in the sand and pretend that they are out of Israel's danger and they ought to realise that peace under constant threat is no peace at all.

Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i, described the Israeli withdrawals from Jordanian territory as a source of pride for all Jordanian and Arab people. The writer said that the return of Arab lands has been the main

text of creating a defence line for the Jewish state would not help the cause of peace. Israel should remember, said the writer, that it was largely due to suicide bombing attacks against the American and Israeli forces in Lebanon that these forces withdrew from Lebanese territory.

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Features



for peace

Jordan is concerned, the Kingdom positively to any effort to settle, themselves, just and durable peace with the Arabs. Jordan, which territorial rights under the 1982 peace treaty in October, has no positive support for any peace deal. The Arab-Israeli peace bodies were formed.

It is not easy to explain the situation to the peoples in the Middle East, who are used to handle every single drop of water as a precious treasure. We, on the other hand, are still vexed with the problem of how to get rid of millions and millions of gallons of water every day. Rain, rivers and the tides of the North Sea have shaped our country as much as our lives.

It has always been this way. When the Romans ruled most of the then-known world, the Germanic tribes in the Delta lived on earthy hills. In the Middle Ages, when Holland and parts of Belgium were justly referred to as the Low Countries, the first primitive dikes were made of clay, wood and stones. Through the centuries the system was developed further, and it created a landscape that is called "polder". It is the only Dutch word (besides "apartheid", but we prefer to forget that one) to penetrate without translation in English, French and German. Polders are flat and fruitful lands behind dikes, guarded by a system of canals and sluices. The famous Dutch windmills were not made for the benefits of tourism in the 20th century. They were the first pumping machines to keep the water level in the polders under control.

Most of our land the Dutch cheated out of nature. And nature paid us back this week. While we were proud of having repaired our front door in the fight against the sea, the water sneaked in through the back door. The long and scenic Rhine River, and the less impressive, but still powerful Meuse, reclaimed their ancient rights in the Delta. They took what was theirs from time immemorial: a dashing rush from the Swiss Alps and the French Vosges to the North Sea.

Some quarter of a million Dutch and one million cattle had to hurry away from the swollen rivers. It was the largest evacuation operation in the history of the Netherlands. During the evacuation, a strange mood was preserved. The Dutch are known as very private people, with a reputation of stubborn disobedience to authorities, always warning about taxes and demanding financial compensations when something goes

badly. In the seventeenth century, the so-called Golden

Age of the Dutch Republic, merchants from Amsterdam commanded the high seas as far as Asia and Latin America. The impressive canal-houses in the centre of Amsterdam, capital of the Netherlands, are built on their power, trade and colonial loot.

And the Delta is still a

money-maker. Located on

the mouth of the Rhine

River, gateway to industrial giant Germany, Rotterdam has maintained its position as largest seaport of the world for decades.

And in the green polders,

cattle is raised. Dutch cows

are as a breeding stock in

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Water made us rich as

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Economy

Iran seeks to curb outflow of hard currency

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iran is fighting to curb the flow abroad of hundreds of millions of dollars in hard currency each year that is deepening the country's economic crisis.

According to central bank governor Mobsen Nurbakhsh, only \$800 million of the country's estimated \$3.2 billion in hard currency earnings from non-oil exports last year returned to Iran, even though many of the export companies are associated with the government.

The country, meanwhile, is on the brink of bankruptcy and over-burdened by a short and medium-term foreign debt of more than \$30 billion.

The authorities have resorted to a carrot-and-stick policy to force exporters to

return their capital to the country.

Mr. Nurbakhsh said the government now required that exporters return at least 50 per cent of their hard currency earnings within four months of any transaction, or face legal action.

He also promised that interest would be added to hard currency deposits at Iranian banks in line with international rates.

Parliament asked the government Monday to step up the fight against the smuggling of hard currency and merchandise that has been on the rise in the past two years.

The request was made despite the mounting efforts by the government to cut back on imports.

To save hard currency and

pay back its hefty foreign debt, Iran sharply curbed imports last year to around \$10 billion from \$25 billion in 1992.

The shock treatment however led to the creation of a parallel semi-legal system of transactions, which function independently of the country's banking system.

The volume of trade within this system is estimated at between \$3 to \$5 billion, according to parliamentary documents quoted by the official news agency IRNA.

This system serves as a safety valve to prevent the industrial sector and the bazaar from suffocating and to allow the minimum imports of vital goods," said a European economic expert in Tehran. "But at the same

time it harms the government's efforts to reimburse its debt and emerge from the financial crisis."

The trafficking of hard currency and merchandise — mainly from Arab Gulf states — however has taken on such a huge proportion that many government organisations have also been implicated.

"It would be very difficult to reorganise the system as long as the parallel system keeps growing," the expert said.

But the war declared on hard currency trafficking already appears to have had some success.

The authorities seem to have already managed to stem the collapse of the rial, which lost 40 per cent of its value against major foreign currencies last month.

The Iranian currency has risen slightly against the dollar and gold on the black market since Monday, while the rate of the greenback officially remains frozen.

Meanwhile, Iran has sentenced a factory owner and two managers of other businesses to public floggings and fines for refusing to sell goods at rates set by the government.

The announcement was made by Justice Minister Ismail Shoushtari and broadcast by Tehran Radio. It underscored government resolve to deal firmly with violators.

Mr. Shoushtari heads a new committee trying to curb backtracking inflation that has led to a public outcry.

The radio, monitored in Cyprus, quoted him as saying that the director-general of Golab, a company in central Arak province that produces shortening, was sentenced to 30 floggings and ordered to pay more than 403 million riyals (\$230,000) for illegal distribution and selling at inflated rates.

The minister said that the owner of a tire factory was fined 33 million riyals (\$19,000) for refusing to sell at the official rates, and that the manager of a cooperative store was fined 11 million riyals (\$6,000) for "profiteering."

He said all three were tried and convicted over the past few days. None of the alleged violators was identified by name.

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1995

Lebanon plans new oil refinery policy

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's oil minister said he will propose setting up a corporation with state, foreign and private Lebanese capital to re-launch the country's state-owned refinery industry.

Outlining his plans for a new policy for the refining sector, Industry and Oil Minister As'ad Rizk said the proposed corporation would have an initial capital of \$200 million and would operate under a BOT (build, operate, transfer) contract.

The state would have about 25 per cent of the new corporation's initial capital, 50 per cent would go to foreign investors and 25 per cent would be raised on the Beirut stock market.

The study showed that the Tripoli plant could start making money in two or three years, Mr. Rizk said.

It showed that with a \$150 million investment the refinery could start producing 25,000 b/d in about 18 months from its existing distillation unit and the addition of another unit could raise this to 50,000 b/d in three years.

Construction of a 100,000 b/d refinery at Zahran would take five or six years and cost \$700 million, Mr. Rizk said.

"If we build this refinery in the south we will only have to invest a little more money to reach 130,000 or 150,000 b/d by 2005 or 2010, meaning that the output of the two refineries would leave an export surplus."

Asked if he had a company in mind to take up the 50 per cent foreign shareholding in the proposed corporation Mr. Rizk said: "Many American, British, German, Italian."

Mr. Rizk said two companies, British and Irish, are interested in carrying out new seismic surveys in Lebanon.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4, 1995

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can have a quietly happy time with the one you love during the day, but it's up to you to take the initial step that brings about better understanding.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) An extremely good friend can today put into motion an operation that will be most helpful to your best interests or else introduce you to some influential person.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Put into operation whatever activity will help you to get into the good graces of some influential person who will be very helpful for your future.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) An out of town missive or instruction to one far away through the mail will be very pleasing today so that you can be very successful.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Strive for greater cooperation by associates through subtle kindness and small, thoughtful gifts. Then institute some system this afternoon that will insure performance of most important tasks efficiently in the future.

VENUS: (August 22 to September 22) Set up appointments with the right people early on so that you can further your career or make big headway in social or personal life.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Make it a pleasant task to do something today very practical for those living under your same roof. Remember, it's a privilege as well as a duty.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Start the ball rolling in the right direction this weekend by having a wonderful time with good friends during healthful recreation which will also prove lucrative.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 20) Take the time to do add colour and beauty to home surroundings today and then take the time to do a little entertaining that will help brighten the lives of others as well as your own.

CAPRICORN: (December 21 to January 19) Being appreciative of others as well as doing the nice thing that will bring compliments to you is very fine today and will do much to give you and them a brighter outlook on life.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Take time now to be of help to yourself instead of others as is your usual habit since there is a need to look after some personal interests that need your attention this afternoon.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Since you are very much governed by Venus, your charm is most evident at this time and others are anxious to please you. Don't be reticent. Get out and about this evening.

Birdstone of February: Amethyst — Onyx

THE Daily Crossword



Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1995 9

plans new
policyBusiness
Daily
BeatA review
of economic news
from the Arabic pressPrices of
newspapers
likely to rise★ ★ As a result of higher
international prices and demand
for printing paper, costs for the production of
newspapers and magazines willbe rising and, as such, it is
likely that prices of newspapers and magazines will
increase soon. A noticeable price increase will also affect books, copybooks and other paper products (Sawt Al

Saab).

★ ★ A ministerial committee
will reconsider the distribution
of allotments among companies which transport
oil from Iraq to Jordan. The
reason behind the formation of
the committee was a complaint by drivers at Al Naber
Company that the distribution
of shipments was not fair and
resulted in idling 100 fuel
tanks and their drivers (Al

Dustour).

★ ★ The preliminary findings
of a geographical survey conducted
by the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
indicate that there are oil deposits at the Dead
Sea area. However, it is still
not known if the quantity of the oil is commercial and
economically feasible. The
ministry is now studying a
proposal to set up a private
company to be totally owned
by the state and to be
financed by either the treasury
or by loans to explore for oil
in the coming few months (Al

Rai).

★ ★ Royal Jordanian
decided to add two new wings
to the free shop at the Queen
Alia International Airport. The
two wings, which will be
operational shortly, are to be
located at the ground floor of
the departure terminals in
both the northern and southern
buildings. This expansion
will be followed by having
two of the four sections of
the free shop, operating
around the clock. The free
shop sales exceeded JD 10
million in 1993 (Al Rai).★ ★ The international
consultancy firm contracted to
evaluate the assets and liabilities
of the Jordan Electricity
Authority has finished its
task and presented its report
at the beginning of this
month. The first step towards
privatising the authority is
expected in March (Al

Aswaq).

★ ★ The minister of supply
authorised his staff to relay to
local newspapers the names,
addresses, types of violations
and the court sentences of all
found guilty of supply violations
(Sawt Al Saab).★ ★ The Amman Chamber
of Industry will organise a
comprehensive industrial exhibition
in May in celebration of
Jordan's Independence anniversary (Al

Aswaq).

★ ★ The Jordanian Industrial
Estates Corporation will soon
begin setting up two industrial
cities, one north of Amman,
one south of the capital to
meet the demands of industrial investors (Al

Dustour).

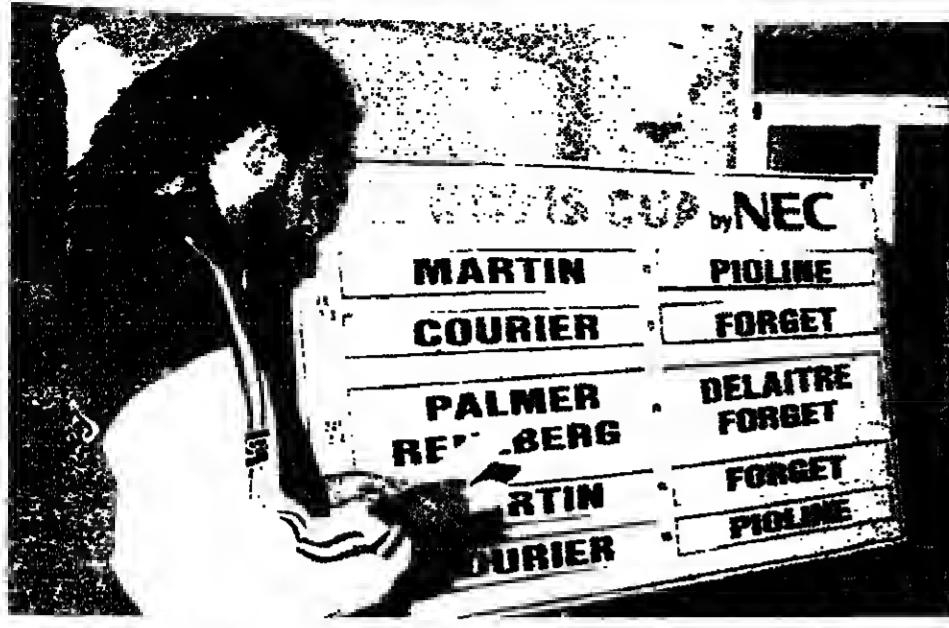
★ ★ The Middle East Bank
has obtained approval to increase
its capital from JD 4 million to JD 10 million and
the bank is now arranging to begin the executive stage (Al

Aswaq).

★ ★ The 1995 budget for
Karak totals JD 39 million,
of which JD 20 million are
for recurrent spending and
JD 19 million for capital
spending (Al Rai).★ ★ Eleven Jordan
companies and institutions are to
take part in Frankfurt's
Ambiente 95 exhibition
which starts on Feb. 18, 1995
(Al Rai).★ ★ Sales of Aladdin
industries products during the
second half of last year amounted to JD 2.3 million,
of which JD 281,000 were
earnings from exports (12 per
cent of total sales). The
company's balance sheet shows
the net profit amounting to
JD 334,661 (Al Aswaq).AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SEMIRANI
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 662170
ORGANISED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (26/01/1995 - 01/02/1995)
WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	402,328	186.500	184.500	184.500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	66,416	4.420	4.420	4.280
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	101,050	6.270	6.270	6.160
BANK OF JORDAN	75,224	3.650	3.650	3.600
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	2,712	1.550	1.550	1.670
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	3,983	2.850	2.850	2.860
THE HOUSING BANK	161,088	6.180	6.180	5.950
JORDAN KUWAITI BANK	34,436	3.040	3.060	3.000
JORDAN GULF BANK	6,369	1.580	1.580	1.470
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	201,888	3.870	3.870	3.750
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	607	5.100	5.100	5.100
BUSINESS BANK	675	3.550	3.550	3.500
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	868	6.290	6.290	4.240
BRITISH BANK SAVING & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	2,827	2.250	2.250	2.150
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	382,177	1.660	1.660	1.320
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	6,827	4.200	4.200	4.150
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	23,735	1.600	1.600	1.520
BA N K S S E C T O R				
	1472001	INDEX NUMBER: 158.26		
	CHANGE	-1.09%		
UNITED INSURANCE	14,128	3.000	3.000	2.800
ARABIAN MEAS INSURANCE	293	2.000	2.000	1.950
JORDAN FIRE INSURANCE	42,920	2.460	2.460	2.260
YARMOH INSURANCE & REINSURANCE	7,905	2.050	3.050	2.100
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	4,810	2.600	2.600	2.600
I N S U R A N C E S E C T O R				
	70065	INDEX NUMBER: 136.17		
	CHANGE	-0.37%		
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	111,719	1.550	1.550	1.680
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER /NEW	160,386	1.480	1.680	1.390
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	1,562	6.050	6.050	6.250
JORDAN MINERALS	590	2.820	2.820	2.950
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	13,227	5.050	5.050	5.000
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	61,209	2.380	2.280	2.360
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	18,292	2.290	2.290	2.200
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	9,240	1.190	1.190	1.150
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	970	1.020	1.020	0.970
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	47,720	2.600	2.600	2.250
JORDAN INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	20,977	2.600	2.600	3.560
S E R V I C E S S E C T O R				
	666261	INDEX NUMBER: 130.61		
	CHANGE	-2.24%		
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	15,662	27.690	27.690	30.300
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	121,125	2.950	2.950	2.920
THE ARAB PHOSPHATE MINES	2,128	2.050	2.050	2.850
THE ARAB POZESH/NEW	11,125	5.150	5.150	5.050
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	57,222	9.610	9.610	9.500
JORDAN TANNING	10,264	7.500	7.500	7.500
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	25,252	6.200	4.200	6.050
THE JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	75,446	7.900	7.900	7.650
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	169,262	5.150	5.150	6.760
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	5,056	6.250	6.250	6.050
JORDAN DAIRY	1,014	2.300	2.300	2.160
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	11,696	2.700	2.700	2.600
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	800	4.200	6.200	6.000
SPINNING & WEAVING	2,200	2.630	2.620	2.600
RAFIA INDUSTRIES	16,309	2.770	2.770	2.700
DAR AL DAHA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	66,260	16.250	16.250	8.000
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	31,539	1.020	1.020	0.970
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	21,662	7.100	7.100	6.800
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	99,923	0.870	0.870	0.800
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	11,501	1.630	1.430	1.370
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	2,050	4.150	6.150	6.100
JORDAN METAL & METAL-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	6,534	2.610	2.610	2.500
JORDAN ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES	3,720	1.490	1.690	1.430
ALADDIN INDUSTRIES	12,113	4.480	4.480	4.300
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JIMCO	9,383	0.810	0.810	0.780
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	1,658	4.850	4.850	4.850
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	3,523	1.920	1.920	1.780
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	12,720	2.710	2.710	2.580
KANTER INVESTMENT	4,738	1.760	1.760	1.750
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	60,268	6.170	4.170	4.000
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	26,731	2.220	2.220	2.070
I N D U S T R I A L S E C T O R				
	877112	INDEX NUMBER: 124.37		
	CHANGE	-1.21%		
G R A N D T O T A L	2065418	INDEX NUMBER: 142.25		

Financial Markets		Jordan Times			
In co-operation with		Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets					
Currency					
New York Close Date 2/2/1995					
Sterling Pound	1.5228	1.5222**			
Deutsche Mark	1.6182	1.5193			
Swiss Franc	1.2846	1.2850**			
French Franc	5.2650	5.2660**			
Japanese Yen	99.20	99.52			
European Currency Unit	1.2448	1.2432**			
For further details call: 80106089					
Currency 1 MTH 5 MTHS 6 MTHS 12 MTHS					
U.S. Dollar	5.81	6.12	6.50	7.12	
Sterling Pound	6.18	6.50	6.81	6.56	
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.81	5.00	5.43	
Swiss Franc	3.50	3.68	3.93	4.28	
French Franc	5.57	5.62	6.00	6.50	
Japanese Yen	2.00	2.06	2.14	2.25	
European Currency Unit	5.75	6.03	6.40	6.98	
International bid rates for amounts received U.S. Dollars 100,000 or equivalent					



Yannick Noah, captain of the French Davis Cup tennis team, looks at the opening round pairings on Thursday. The French team will

U.S. Davis Cup coach not underestimating France

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — Tom Gullikson keeps hearing the United States should have no trouble against France this weekend in the opening round of the Davis Cup.

Gullikson, the U.S. Davis Cup captain, wants no part of it. He knows what happened in 1991, when the French beat the Americans in the Davis Cup final.

"Whether we're playing a team that we're supposed to dominate or that supposed to dominate us doesn't really matter. We're coming in here to play our best tennis."

And if that happens, French captain Yannick Noah suggests, it could be a rout for the United States.

Noah also was captain of the French team that won the 1991 Davis Cup. That squad included three of the four players currently representing France — Guy Forget, Olivier Delaître and Arnaud Boetsch. The other player is Cedric Pioline, who is playing instead of Henri Leconte.

"It's a very good situation for us," Noah said. "We don't have anything to lose. We're playing a team that is supposed to beat us and that

is playing before their crowd," Noah said. "We can very well lose 5-0, but we could just as well win 3-2 or 4-1."

With Australian Open finalists Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras taking time off, the American team consists of Jim Courier and Todd Martin and the doubles pair of Jared Palmer and Richey Rehberg.

Pioline, a 1993 U.S. Open finalist, will try to get the French in the opening match against Martin at the 6,000-seat Bayfront Center. Guy Forget will face Courier in the second match.

Palmer and Rehberg, winners of the Australian Open doubles title last week, will face Forget and Oliver Delaître in Saturday's doubles.

Sunday's singles matchups on the indoor carpet surface that both teams said favours the Americans are Martin vs. Forget and vs. Pioline.

On paper, the United States should have no problem advancing to the second round against the winner of the first-round match between Czech Republic and Italy. Courier is No. 12 in the world and Martin is No. 13, while Forget and Pioline are ranked 37th and 50th, respectively.

Pierce bows out of Toray tennis

TOKYO (Agencies) — Australian Open champion Mary Pierce was beaten Friday by Magdalena Maleeva in the quarter-finals of the \$806,250 Toray Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament here.

The 20-year-old French player, who clinched her first Grand Slam title at Melbourne last Sunday, went down 3-6, 6-1, 3-6.

The Bulgarian also beat Pierce in their first encounter in the Federation Cup in Frankfurt last year.

Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez of Spain was upset by Japan's top player Kimiko Date 0-6, 6-2, 6-3 in the quarter-finals of the Pan Pacific Open women's tennis tournament Friday.

Despite an easy first set, the top seed, who has lost some form since her Wimbledon triumph, played erratically, with unforced errors in both forehand and backhand ground strokes.

The 24-year-old Date became more and more aggressive as she broke fourth-ranked Martinez to lead 5-1 in the final set.

After failing on two match points, 10th-ranked Date finally sealed victory when Martinez's backhand return went long.

In the semifinals date will meet eighth seed Iva Majoli of Croatia, who earlier beat unseeded Japanese Naoko Sawamoto 4-6, 6-3, 6-0.

American Lindsay Davenport, seeded third, reached Saturday's semifinals when she came from behind to beat sixth seed Anke Huber of Germany 2-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Medvedeva inspired by pop singer

Natalia Medvedeva created pop singer Cliff Richard with the inspiration for her



Mary Pierce

quarterfinal victory Friday in the \$107,500 Amway Classic women's tennis championship in Auckland, New Zealand.

Medvedeva, the seventh seed from Ukraine, defeated Australian Rachel McQuillan 6-4, 6-1 after attending a Richard concert the previous night and also practising with the singer — a keen amateur player.

Medvedeva now will play No. 2 seed and defending champion Ginger Helgeson Nielsen of the United States in the semifinals.

Helgeson Nielsen had a walkover Friday after her fifth-seeded Chinese oppo-

Mansell signs for McLaren

LONDON (AFP) — The most kept secret in motor racing was revealed Friday when it was confirmed that former World Champion Nigel Mansell will contest in 1995 Formula One championship for McLaren Mercedes.

The 41-year-old Mansell, who will partner Finn Mika Häkkinen, will be competing in his 13th full Formula One season, but insists "you can't stop the fire burning if you love driving."

He added he was motivated like never before and was driving to win, not to wind down his career. "Winning," he said, "you taste, feel and sense it, and you can't walk away from it."

He said he was excited by the fact there were new regulations, with new cars and new engines, and that driver weight was no longer important. He has usually been the heaviest driver giving a tiny vital speed handicap.

Mansell noted McLaren had won 104 Grands Prix and he had won 31. "We have been competitors and enemies. When they won I usually lost. Now it's like starting a new career."

McLaren International Managing Director Ron Dennis said it had taken five weeks of complicated negotiations to agree the deal with Mansell, after a catastrophic first meeting.

In the end, he revealed, they had stuck over the last \$100,000 of the deal, and finally agreed to give it to charity. Mansell adding that his half share would probably go to charities near his gold club near Exeter, in south western England. No figure for the deal was announced, but there was speculation Mansell will get five million pounds for the season.

Mansell had said last year he did not employ drivers he did not understand, and he didn't understand Nigel Mansell.

At the announcement, he explained that Mansell had a split personality and that at the first meeting he only saw Mansell's public image, the flamboyant race winner.

After some straight talking, he said, he found "the real person."

Rockets end Utah Jazz road streak



Houston Rockets star Hakeem Olajuwon #34 makes a hasty shot under double coverage by two opponents (AP photo)

points and Anfernee Hardaway missed two critical free throws with 2.1 seconds left, the second deliberately, as the Sonics beat Orlando 106-103.

Orlando lost for the first time in 22 home games despite 39 points and 15 rebounds from Shaquille O'Neal. The Magic, who came in the last remaining unbeaten team at home, had won 24 straight at Orlando Arena dating back to last season.

The game featured 13 ties and 18 lead changes and no team had a lead greater than seven points.

Detlef Schrempf added 22 points for Seattle and Sam Perkins had 14 rebounds as the Sonics won their seventh straight road game. Seattle won both meetings between the teams this season, including a 124-84 trouncing at Seattle on December 17.

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finished with 17.

The loss was the fourth in a row for the Cavaliers, who are 3-7 since losing star guard Mark Price to injury.

Terrell Brandon led the Cavaliers with 15 points.

In Sacramento, Walt Williams scored 20 points and the Kings held Chicago to just 24 points in the second half to defeat the Bulls 88-68.

Chicago scored only 11 points in the third quarter and 13 in the fourth quarter.

Mitch Richmond had 17 points and Spud Webb added 14 for the Kings.

Scottie Pippen led Chicago with 22 points.

RESULTS

Detroit 85, Cleveland 83
Seattle 106, Orlando 103
Seattle 121, Utah 101
Sacramento 88, Chicago 68

GOREN BRIDGE

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COUP FOR THE QUEEN

Both vulnerable, North deals.

NORTH

2 Q 7 3

9 A K 8

0 6 7 6

4 A 7 4 3

4 5 6 5

5 Q 6 4

0 Q 10 5

0 K 10 5

4 Q 9 8

9 A K 10 4

9 10 7 5 3 2

0 A 9

6 6 2

The bidding:

North East South West

1 2 Pass 4 4 Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of Q

If you have reason to believe you are being sold a bill of goods, accept cards the defendant play at their face value. This kernel stood Bill Clegg in good stead on this hand from a rubber bridge game at the San Francisco Bridge Club.

We like North's plan to two hearts, despite the 4-3-3-3 pattern and only three-card support. If you suppress a holding headed by A K, you will have difficulty later in convincing partner of the quality of your trumps.

Four hearts was an excellent contract — a laydown if trumps were 3-2. As a matter of technique, Clegg declared the opening diamond lead and won the contract with the ace. Next came another good play — conceding a club trick to the defendant.

Declarer ruffed the diamond return, then cashed the king of hearts, ruffing the jack from East. If that was an honor ruff, declarer was in danger of losing two trump tricks and the contract, unless a coup could be engineered.

After cashing the ace of clubs, declarer ruffed a club in hand, then played off three rounds of spades ending in dummy. The table's last club was led and, when East followed, declarer sharply discarded the spade from hand. West was forced to ruff, then had to lead a trump away from Q 9 into declarer's combined A 10 tenace. Making four odd-

Stoichkov and Cruyff in feud

BARCELONA (AFP) — Former world record holder Said Aouita of Morocco and world indoor 60m record holder Andre Cason are among five top athletes who have dropped out of the Millrose Games here, officials have said. Aouita, making a comeback at age 35 after three years out of the sport, was to have raced in the 3,000m but bowed out because of bronchitis. No reason for Cason's departure was given. Butch Reynolds, the world outdoor record-holder at 400 metres, decathlon world champion and world record-holder Dan O'Brien, and Joe Greene, the 1992 Olympic long jump bronze medallist, were among the late scratches for the games at Madison Square Garden. Meet organisers said that both Reynolds and Greene had hamstring injuries, and O'Brien a strained quadricep.

Stoichkov and Cruyff in feud

KANSAS CITY (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs on Thursday denied reports that surgery on Joe Montana's knee was more difficult than expected and said he spent the day taking flying lessons. The operation was nothing different than a number of players have following a rugged football season, said Chiefs spokesman Bob Moore, ESPN, a cable television station, reported on Super Bowl Sunday that the surgery was more serious, and that Montana would need a longer recuperation period than was expected. Moore said the report was wrong.

Montana had serious knee surgery

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Montana had serious knee surgery

LONDON (R) — Rose Mota, the most successful women's marathon runner ever, hopes to set the seal on her career with the Olympic title in Atlanta next year at the age of 36. Mota, who has won Olympic and world titles plus three European golds, dropped out of the Tokyo Marathon last November in her first race for 2½ years. But she is now training in Porto in the north of Portugal in preparation for Atlanta under coach and husband Jose Pedroso.

Women's pro baseball league to open

ATLANTA (AFP) — A six-team European women's professional baseball league, backed by organisers of a U.S. women's team, will open June in France, Spain and Italy, officials said here Thursday. The Mediterranean Baseball League will feature players from among 2,500 who tried out for the Colorado Silver Bullets touring U.S. team. U.S. college coaches will instruct teams of 20 players, five of whom will be from the host nation. "People in Europe love sports and love anything that is American.

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Women's pro baseball league to open

ATLANTA (AFP) — A six-team European

Fred Perry, Britain's last Wimbledon champ, dies at 85

MELBOURNE (AP) — Fred Perry, the last British man to win the Wimbledon singles title, died Thursday at the age of 85.

Perry, who won Wimbledon three straight times from 1934-36, died in hospital in Melbourne, where he was being treated after suffering broken ribs in a fall in his hotel bathroom last week.

A short statement issued Friday by the Epworth Hospital on behalf of Perry's family said he had died of heart failure.

"Mr. Fred Perry passed away suddenly and peacefully from heart failure on Thursday afternoon at the Epworth Hospital," the statement said.

Tributes to Perry flooded in from around the tennis world.

"Fred Perry was a superlative ambassador for our sport throughout the world," All England Club chairman John Currie said in a statement. "He was a great character, high-hearted and a true champion in every sense."

"He won the affection and admiration of all those involved in tennis... Fred was a central figure at the championships for more than 50 years and all those involved in both the club and the championships will retain a lasting and fond memory of him."

"Fred was one of those rare individuals. He was at ease with all — from the youngest fans to royalty."

Australia's former Davis Cup captain and Wimbledon champion Neale Fraser described Perry "A great chap to be around."

"He was always had a smile, always seemed to be happy," said Fraser of his longtime friend.

Perry was renowned as an aggressive competitor with tremendous self-confidence and a remarkable running forehand.

Shortly after his last Wimbledon triumph, Perry moved to the United States to turn professional, angering Wimbledon officials.

"I suddenly became persona non grata as far as

bis three Wimbledon crowns, Perry won the United States championship at Forest Hills in 1933, 1934 and 1936, the Australian championship in 1934 and the French title in 1935.

Born in Stockport, Cheshire, Perry was regarded as one of the all-time greats of tennis. He was the first player to win all four major titles, although he did not hold them concurrently.

Perry beat Australia's Jack Crawford in 1934 for his first Wimbledon crown and the following year when he defeated Germany's Baron Gottfried Von Cramm.

In 1936, Perry defeated Von Cramm 6-1, 6-1, 6-0 in 40 minutes in the shortest Wimbledon final this century.

"In those days we had no prize money like they have today," Perry recalled in a recent interview. "When I won Wimbledon, I was given two sugars in my tea instead of one by the Wimbledon committee. We played for pride."

Perry said the achievement he most cherished was Britain's Davis Cup triumph over France in Paris 1933. After beating Henry Cochet, Perry clinched the decisive fifth match with a win over Andre Merlin to bring the trophy to Britain for the first time since 1911.

Perry led Britain to Davis Cup championship with victories over France (1933), the United States (1934-35) and Australia (1936).

He won 45 out of 52 Davis Cup matches for Britain and 34 out of 38 singles between 1931-36.

Perry was renowned as an aggressive competitor with tremendous self-confidence and a remarkable running forehand.

"The trouble with tennis nowadays is that there are too many tournaments and too much money on offer to date with the modern game," he added.

Perry, however, didn't conceal his distaste for the state of today's game.

"Arrangements will be made for Perry's body to be flown home to England for burial," Tennis Australia said a statement. No funeral arrangements have been announced.

tennis was concerned," he said. "It just wasn't done anywhere except the United States to be a pro. I wasn't allowed back to Wimbledon, where my membership was rescinded, or to any other tournament affiliated with a national federation."

The rift was healed in 1984 when Wimbledon erected a statue of Perry near Centre Court. The main entrance next to his bronze figure is known as the Fred Perry Gate.

Perry remained active until his death. He ran a highly-successful sportswear company and was a regular member of BBC radio's commentary team at Wimbledon and other major championships from 1949. His annual presence at Wimbledon served as a constant reminder of the sorry state of British tennis, which has no male players in the top 50.

Britain's current No. 1 player Jeremy Bates said Perry would be "sorely missed."

"He would always speak to me in the Wimbledon locker room and there was always a special sensation or aura when he walked into the changing room, which was recognition of what great man he was," Bates said.

"It was a joy to speak to him and always a special feeling to be in a conversation with him. He always had words of wisdom and encouragement and comments about my matches."

Bates, 32, said he enjoyed Perry's "intelligent and lucid" remarks as a radio commentator. "He was always very much up to date with the modern game," he added.

Perry, however, didn't conceal his distaste for the state of today's game.

"The trouble with tennis nowadays is that there are too many tournaments and too much money on offer to date with the modern game," he added.

"There are simply not enough top-level competitors to go round. Those that there are wear them-

selves out with too much tennis, too much travelling and too many other exhausting — if lucrative — commitments."

"What concerns me most of all is the racket technology. The technology dictates the way the game is played. I think there's a case for getting back to wooden rackets for men because there aren't any touch players any more."

The Lawn Tennis Association, which has sought unsuccessfully to find another British champion, greeted Perry's death with "great sadness."

"His playing record commanded universal respect and his wit and warm personality rightly earned him a special place in the affections of everyone involved in tennis," an LTA statement said. "Fred was a wonderful ambassador for the game and the world of tennis will be a poorer place without him."

International Tennis Federation president Brian Tobin also paid tribute to Perry.

"Until his last moments, Fred was still vitally interested in and enthusiastic about the game he played so well in the 1930s," Tobin said. "Not only was he a great champion he was also a great friend to so many players and national tennis associations over the years. We will all miss him and our sympathies and prayers go out to his wife Bobby and his daughter Penny."

Perry's fourth wife Barbara — known to everyone as "Bobby" — was with him in Melbourne where he had been watching the Australian Open, which finished last Sunday.

His daughter Penny flew into Melbourne on Thursday to be with her father. He also was survived by an adopted son.

Arrangements will be made for Perry's body to be flown home to England for burial, Tennis Australia said a statement. No funeral arrangements have been announced.



French couple Sophie Moniotte and Pascal Lavanchy in action at the European Figure Skating Championships in Dortmund (AFP photo)

Figure Skating

Nine triples earn Kulik gold medal

DORTMUND (Agencies) —

Ilya Kulik soared to the European Men's Figure Skating title on his first attempt with a sensational display of nine triple jumps on Thursday.

but the triple toe loop combined with it was over-rated.

He recovered beautifully with a triple lutz landed like a feather and seven more triples followed from that.

He gained steady marks of 5.8 and 5.7 for both technique and artistry.

Though two were slightly flawed, the 17-year-old Moscow sports student confirmed the immense promise he showed when he beat a huge field in the short programme on Wednesday.

Kulik, who won the world junior title only two months ago, became only the second skater to win the pairs since World War II to capture a European title on his first attempt.

The first was 1993 champion, Ukraine's Dmitry Dmitrenko, who was seventh on Thursday.

Outstanding though he was, Kulik was surpassed on the night by Olympic champion Alexei Urmanov, his Russian compatriot who leaped from sixth place before the final to snatch the silver medal with a perfect score.

Urmanov, a disappointing fourth at last year's World Championships, skated an exhilarating programme containing eight triple jumps to music from "Swan Lake" and gleaned the only perfect 6.0 points for artistry awarded in the final.

He had left himself to much to do to take gold but he will be heartened after a series of setbacks since his triumph at the Lillehammer Olympics last year.

Ukrainian Viacheslav Zagorodniuk secured the bronze medal with Frenchman Philippe Candelier, second in the world last year, fourth after a "Godfather" routine marred by two jumping mistakes.

Those who forecast Kulik might not have the stamina or the experience for the occasion sold him short, though his first jump combination seemed to bear them out.

The triple axel was superb

"I hope very soon all of them get together and have just one competition," Fassi said.

But the ISU doesn't recognise them all.

The ISU is ruling skaters ineligible who compete in unsanctioned events — nearly every one of the TV competitions.

"It's a very personal opinion but there is too much exposure," said Lawrence Demmy, a vice-president of the ISU.

"There were the incredible ratings of the skating because of the Kerrigan-harding incident," Demmy said.

"It's very say that to make skating popular we needed someone to beat up another one," said Carlo Fassi, who coached Olympic champions Peggy Fleming, Dorothy Hamill and the late John Curry.

"This is another world now, it's very good for skating," Fassi said. "But they are overexposing it."

The popularity has brought so many competitions among the Olympic medallists that nearly every week there is some kind of pro-event.

Over the past few months there has been the "International Figure Skating competition," "the world professional skating championships," "challenge of champions" and "world team skating championship."

All this in addition to the World Championship in Birmingham, which is the only one the ISU recognises to determine the real world champions.

Demmy anticipates that Baiul will make an application for reinstatement.

"At the ISU Council meeting in May in Athens we will review all the applications for reinstatement," Demmy said.

But Fassi sees another reason for the TV interest.

"The television networks had the loss of the NFL and the baseball lockout," Demmy said. "And TV had to fill that space."

The entrepreneurs rushed to take advantage of it and competitions sprouted over the past year.

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

U.S.-based firm seeks Jordanian professional as coordinator of local health-related commercial marketing program.

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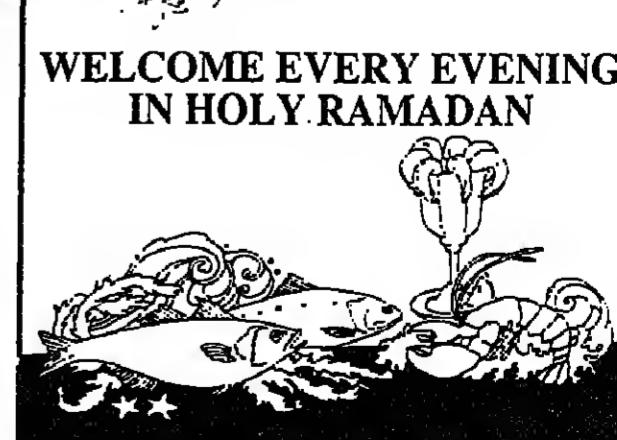
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- Travel in-country. Short-term project.

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Bertrand all wet in America's Cup

SAN DIEGO (AP) — One Australian skipper John Bertrand swam with the whales Thursday but did not enjoy the experience.

Bertrand fell overboard before Thursday as his boat lost a light-wind race to unbeaten Team New Zealand in the second round of the Louis Vuitton Cup challenger trials for the America's Cup.

Bertrand, 47, was embarrassed but not barmed. The man who sailed Alan Bond's Australia II to victory over Dennis Conner's Liberty in 1983 to take the Cup Down Under was in the 58-degree water for about 12 seconds.

Light winds continued to plague the event. The races were delayed by almost two hours as overhead television cameras showed California gray whales migrating through the race course.

When racing began, the Australians trailed Peter Blake's "Black Magic" by only two boat lengths at the first leeward mark.

They were starting to drop the spinnaker when Bertrand moved toward the port side of the middle of the boat. Then he appeared to lose his balance and landed in the water feet first.

Bertrand grabbed a line as he fell and lost his cap, but held on as the boat went past.

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While losing the 1994 drivers title, Williams-Renault still won the World makers championship for the third year in a row.

Benetton, an Italian-British team which is named after the Benetton textile group, will use Renault engines for the first time this year, after parting with U.S. Ford.

The French engine maker is also the official supplier of Williams, Benetton's rival team.

"It's a great challenge to supply two top F-1 teams," said Patrick Faure, Renault's general director, addressing a news conference at Benetton headquarters in this northern town near Venice.

Schumacher will team at Benetton-Renault with Britain's Johnny Herbert, who is

rejoining the Italian-British team now that he has fully recovered from serious leg and ankle injuries which put his racing career at risk back in 1993.

It's a great opportunity to drive with Benetton again. I'm fit, and the engine looks very good. I have high hopes," Herbert said.

The world F-1 championships circuit is scheduled to begin in Latin America on March 12.

Schumacher said Benetton's recent engine tests were rained out in silverstone.

"I will have clearer ideas (about the new car) following the next tests in Jerez (Spain). We will have to adapt a little bit to the new car, although I believe that new regulations will not affect driving style," the German driver said.

Flavio Briatore echoed.

"I want to say it loudly.

Our goal is to stay at the top and win both the world manufacturers and drivers titles this year," team manager Flavio Briatore echoed.

"In my view, Williams is the team to beat, the team we must watch out. I can't say if winning the (drivers) title will be more difficult than last year. I had a lot of problems in 1994. For sure it will be difficult to stay in front throughout the season," said Schumacher, the first German driver to win a World-F-1 title.

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Kindergarten in Amman is seeking to hire a native English teacher for the academic year 1995-96.

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U.S. said urging Israel to address NPT concerns

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

The United States, in its push to ensure the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) becomes permanent, is urging Israel to take steps to satisfy concerns about its nuclear intentions. U.S. officials say.

They also said the Clinton administration was working to arrange — before a key meeting on the treaty's future in New York in April — a joint declaration by the world's five major nuclear powers promising an end to the production of fissile material for nuclear arms.

A major speech by President Bill Clinton is also planned for the first week of March, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the NPT's entry into force.

The steps are part of an accelerating campaign by the administration to ensure that the 1968 treaty — the crucial strategic underpinning of efforts to halt the spread of nuclear weapons — is extended indefinitely beyond this year.

The alternative would be an extension for a fixed period after which the NPT would either lapse or face the uphill battle of having to be renewed by a much more complicated ratification process of all member states.

An estimated 60-70 countries are believed to favour permanent extension of the treaty, with 40-50 others leaning towards that position and 20 opposed. Some 86 votes are needed for permanent extension but advocates

want many more.

Many Third World states are reluctant to sign away nuclear weapons forever while the five declared nuclear powers — the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China — show no inclination to give up theirs.

Arab states also object that Israel, which has not signed the NPT, has nuclear weapons, something the Jewish state has never confirmed.

Egypt, a major U.S. aid recipient, in particular has indicated it may not renew its NPT adherence if Israel does not commit itself in principle to accept the treaty.

Senior U.S. officials bowing to the reality of the unstable regional situation, have said they will not press Israel to sign the treaty now, although their ultimate goal is to have all Middle East nations join the NPT regime.

To improve the climate for the NPT conference that begins in New York on April 17, a senior U.S. official said Israel, the number one U.S. aid recipient, has been asked "to take some steps — public steps or private steps — to reassure that their longer term goals are the same as our longer term goals, including their joining the Non-Proliferation Treaty."

Another U.S. official told Reuters: "Egypt is not insisting that Israel sign on to the NPT but just asking for some visible progress in that direction."

"That's something we're working on," he added.

Egypt denied Thursday it

was close to settling its dispute with Israel over signing the NPT.

Asked if Egypt had agreed to sign the treaty in April, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa told reporters: "It's not correct, it's not correct."

He was speaking at the end of an unprecedented four-way summit between the leaders of Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinians to push forward the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Musa's Israeli counterpart, Shimon Peres, told Israeli television before leaving for the summit that he believed the two parties were close to resolving the dispute, which has soured relations between the two peace partners.

"I believe that a solution is pending, that we have already solved or are on the way to solving this crisis," Mr. Peres said, adding that the solution did not include Israel's signing the pact.

Mr. Musa said his country and Israel had agreed to talk about ridding the Middle East of weapons of destruction but Egypt still insisted it would not sign the extension of the NPT unless Israel signs.

"Our situation towards the NPT and our situation towards the Israeli nuclear programme remains as it is but there will be intensive activities and many contacts which are taking place now between us and the Israelis to see what we can do in this respect," Mr. Musa said.

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U.N. human rights rapporteur for occupied territories resigns

GENEVA (Agencies) — The U.N. Human Rights Commission's (UNHRC) special rapporteur on the occupied territories, Rene Felber, announced his resignation Friday, three days after publishing a scathing report on continued abuses by Israeli soldiers.

Mr. Felber called in the report on the United Nations to abolish his post. He announced his resignation while formally presenting the document to the commission Friday, telling journalists he feared for the future of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace process.

The report drew swift condemnation from the outgoing commission president Peter van Wulften Palthen, who termed it irresponsible, and from the International Jurists' Committee, which accused him of botching his inquiry through "explicit... partiality."

In the report, Mr. Felber concluded that neither the U.N. General Assembly nor the commission had met with notable success in improving human rights in the occupied territories.

Its publication, he said, served only to "salve the conscience of the internation-

al community. It is an alibi role that I refuse."

Mr. Felber, a former Swiss foreign minister, said Friday that he regretted that his conclusions "have been understood as a condemnation of the work of the commission," but added that in his 25 years with the organisation, "the situation in the occupied territories has not developed sufficiently in a positive sense."

He added that he was very concerned for the future of the peace process, and that it would take little "for it to collapse and for (Prime Minister) Yitzhak Rabin's government to fall."

Asked whether he perceived a danger that his recommendations would unfairly benefit the Palestinian side, he replied that he bore "as much responsibility as those who condemn (the violence) and do not get results."

He said in the report that the behaviour of the Israeli army had not changed since last year's agreement which created the Palestinian Authority.

Mr. Felber criticised the army's tactic of arbitrary arrests, the sealing-up of Palestinian houses, and interrogations carried out in

unacceptable conditions."

"Let us stop imagining that the military occupation of the territory by a foreign army is compatible with respect for human rights as we understand and define them," he said.

In addition to focussing attention on the effectiveness of the commission — which issues dozens of such reports each year — Mr. Felber's action also raised wider questions about whether publicising abuses is the best way to pressure governments into mending their ways.

"Maybe I said out loud what other people merely think," Mr. Felber told a news conference. "I don't regret it."

"You have to give priority to a political solution. There's no point issuing denunciations if there are no results from these denunciations."

"Is it better to condemn or is it better to support a peace process which leads to a concrete solution?" he said. "For me, I support the concrete solution."

Mr. Felber said implementation of the 1993 accords, which call for Israel to withdraw its troops from

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Abdul Rahman's call for jihad on video produced in U.S. court

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the accused leader of a plot to bomb U.S. landmarks, said in a videotape played before a jury on Thursday that America is Islam's enemy and the Koran allows violence against its foes.

The blind cleric rocked in his seat and smiled broadly as parts of the videotape of a 1993 speech were shown to the Manhattan federal jury hearing the case against him and 11 others accused in the bombing conspiracy.

Prosecutors allege the defendants planned to "wage a war of urban terrorism" in the United States. The Egyptian cleric and the others have pleaded not guilty.

The defendants are accused of helping to plan the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing that killed six people and injured more than 1,000. They are also charged with plotting to bomb the United Nations and bridges and tunnels leading into New York City.

The indictment also accuses them of involvement in the November 1990 murder of radical Rabbi Meir Kahane in New York and with planning to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during a 1993 U.S. visit.

According to the English transcript of the cleric's speech at a "conference on solidarity with Bosnia" that was given to the jury as they watched a video of it, Sheikh Abdul Rahman told cheering spectators it was their duty to perform "jihad."

The definition of jihad is a key issue at the trial. Prosecutors say it means "struggle" and can be "terrorist" acts against countries and individuals that Muslims view as their enemies.

Defence lawyers argue jihad — the Arabic word customarily translated as "holy war" — is a personal struggle to do God's will.

At one point in the speech, the cleric said "we welcome being terrorists," according to the translation produced in court.

"And we do not deny this charge to ourselves. And the Koran makes it among the means to perform jihad in the sake of Allah, which is to terrorise the enemies of God and our enemies too."

"Then we must be terrorists and we must terrorise the enemies of Islam and... shake the earth under their feet," he added.

He continues that "the enemy who is at the forefront of the work against Islam are America and its allies."

Earlier, jurors laughed as Ms. Stewart tried to learn what happened to the sheikh's watermelon during a search of his apartment in 1993.

"Was it scarfed down by thirsty agents on a summer afternoon, agents tired from looking for all of that jihad stuff?" Ms. Stewart said outside court.

The issue of the missing watermelon was raised by Ms. Stewart each time a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agent testified about the apartment search.

Agents found \$61,000 in cash, a bulletproof vest, a bug-detecting device, videotapes and literature — evidence that the sheikh led and financed the "terrorism

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FRIDAY PRAYERS: Palestinians pray at the Jerusalem's Haram Al Sharif Complex for the first Friday noon prayer

of the Holy Month of Ramadan. The Dome of the Rock is seen in the background (AFP photo)

Column 10

Affairs kept Clinton out of 1988 race

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton is advised not to run for president in 1988 out of concern his extramarital affairs might be made public according to a new biography of Mr. Clinton reviewed Friday's Washington Post.

The book also details Mr. Clinton's attempts to dodge his efforts to dodge his draft by destroying a letter sent a colonel thanking him for "saving" him from the draft when he was a university student.

A copy of the letter surfaced during Mr. Clinton's 1992 election campaign and has dogged him since.

"First in His Class," by Washington Post staff writer David Maraniss is a broad character study of Mr. Clinton before he became president based on interviews with more than 400 people.

One of those interviewed was Wesley Wright, Mr. Clinton's chief of staff when he was governor of Arkansas. She

went over a list of women Mr. Clinton allegedly had affairs with to determine whether any public disclosure might harm his chances of running for president in 1988.

After the exercise, Mr. Maraniss writes, Ms. Wright "suggested that he (Clinton) should not get into the race out of deference to his wife and daughter. In the 1992 election campaign, Mr. Clinton admitted having had 'problems' in his marriage but was almost knocked out of the running when Gemini Flowers claimed publicly he had been his long-time mistress.

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